EOH3101 PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

West Africa Ebola virus outbreak
Ebola virus disease

Ebola, which first appeared in outbreaks in Sudan and DR Congo in 1976, is a severe and often fatal disease with no known specific treatment or vaccine. It has since killed more than 1,500 people in parts of Africa.

**SOURCE**
In Africa, particular species of fruit bats are considered possible natural hosts for Ebola virus.

**TRANSMISSION**
Infected bats are thought to transmit the disease to humans, or indirectly through other animals which are hunted for their meat.

**DAMAGE**
Incubation period is from two to 21 days. Death from the disease is often caused by multiple organ failure and tissue death.

**Possible routes**
- Close contact with the blood, secretions, organs or other bodily fluids of infected or dead animals
- Consumption of infected bushmeat
- Touching objects that have come in contact with the virus

**Targets in the body**
- Hepatocytes, functional cells of the liver
- Endothelial cells, which form the linings of the blood vessels
- Phagocytes, blood cells that absorb foreign particles

**Symptoms**
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Severe headache
- Muscle pain
- Intense weakness
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Impaired liver and kidney function
- Internal and external bleeding

*Note: List of animals is not exhaustive.*

*Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; World Health Organisation*
The Ebola virus strain

http://ebolavirusoutbreak.com/category/symptoms-of-ebola-virus/
Ebola rash

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A victim of the Ebola virus

Consuming infected bushmeat
Health awareness

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